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3/18/03

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Cech et al.

Filing Date: November 2, 1999

Serial No: 09/432,503

Docket: 018/063c

Title: INCREASING THE PROLIFERATIVE
CAPACITY OF CELLS USING
TELOMERASE REVERSE TRANSCRIPTASE

Art Unit: 1652

Examiner: Delia M. Ramirez, Ph.D.

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir,

This paper is responsive to the most recent Office Action on the merits, dated August 26, 2002 (Paper No. 17), for which a response is due November 26, 2002. Accompanying this paper is a petition for a three-month time extension, along with authorization to charge the deposit account for the requisite fee. This sets the deadline to February 26, 2003. Accordingly, this paper is timely filed.

Applicant has given careful consideration to the analysis in the Office Action. Please enter the following amendments and remarks.